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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6603
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4204
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2496
AMCONSUL DANANG 940

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Szabury DATE 12/23/81
RDS ☐ or XGS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REAS 1.(C)
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REFS: A) SAIGON 5127
B) SAIGON 4940

SUBJECT: ELECTION COMPLAINTS

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ELECTIN LAW, FORMAL COMPLAINTS OF EECTION IRREGULARITIES RECEIVED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAVE NOW BEEN TRASNMITTED TO CNETRAL ELECTION COUNCIL FOR REIVIEW.

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ACCORDING TO ASSEMBLY SECRETARY GENERAL NGO THANH TUNG, THIRTEEN SUCH COMPLAINTS WERE SUBMITTED TO ASSEMBLY. EMBASSY HAS RECEIFED COPIES OF ELEVEN OF THEM, INLCUDING THE JOINT COMPLAINT BY EIGHT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES (REF A), TWO INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS EACH FROM TRUONG DINH DZU AND PHAN

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KHAC SUU, ONE FROM NGUYEN DINH QUAT, ONE FROM ASSEMBLY DEPUTY AND HUONG SUPPORTER TRIEN VAN TUC, AND OUR FROM VOTERS.

2. FIRST OF TWO COMPLAINTS BY DZU LISTS FOLLOWING IRREGULARITIES: 1) SHORTAGE OF BALLOTS AT NUMEROUS POLLING STATIONS; 2) PRINTING OF "TWO MILLION" EXCESS BALLOTS WITHOUT GZRIAL NUMBER OR STUB; 3) NO VOTER LISTS AT POLLING STATIONS, MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR ONE PERSON TO VOTE SEVERAL TIMES; 4) SHORTAGE OF OBSERVERS AT POLLING PLACES, CAUSED BY SCA RULIG REDUCING OBSERVERS PAY AND PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT TWO DAYS BEFORE ELECTION; 5) CAUSING "DIFFICULTIES" FOR OBSERVERS, REFUSING TO ALLOW THEM TO INTER
POLLING BOOTHS IN SOME AREAS; 6) FRAUDULENT PRACICES IN CERTAIN AREAS, SUCH AS IN BINH MINH DISTRICT OF LINH LONG WHERE "2,450 GHOST BALLOTS" WERE CAST; 7) ELLEGAL CAPAIGNING, THIEU-KY LEAFLETS DROPPED OVER HUE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 2, ETC.; AND 8) FRAUDULENT BALLOTS (DZU SYMBOL ON SUU BALLOT). DZU NOTED THAT THESE ARE ONLY MAJOR POINTS NOTED DURNING ELECTION

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DAY", AND DO NOT INCLUDE SUCH THINGS AS "THREATS" AND "PRESSURES" FROM AUTHORITIES. HOWEVER, THEY ARE SUFFICIENT, DZU CONCLUDED, TO WARRANT INVALIDATION OF ENTIRE ELECTION.

3. IN HIS SECOND COMPLAINT DZU ENCLOSED COPIES OF SUU BALLOT BEARING DZU EMBLEM, AND LEAFLETS ALLEGEDLY DROPPED OVER HUE. HE ALSO SUBMITTED LETTER FROM SOLDIERS IN CHAS DOC PROTESTING PRESSURES ALLEGEDLY EXERTED BY MSS OFFICER THERE.

4. FIRST OF SUU'S COMPLAINTS WAS IN REGARD TO SEPTEMBER 2 BINH MINH NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ANNOUNCING THAT SUU HAD WITHDRAWN. SUU CHARGES THAT COPIES OF PAPER WERE "URGENTLY DISPATCHED" TO POLLING STATIONS IN SAIGON AND III AND IV CORPS. SUU CALLS THIS A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF ELECTORAL LAW AND REQUESTS THAT SCA "RECTIFY THIS FALSE NEWS" AND



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INFORM HIM OF AREAS IN WHICH FALSE REPORT WAS DISSEMINATED.

5. IN HIS SECOND CMPLAINT, SUBMITTED SEPTEMBER 8, SUU PROTESTS SEVERAL ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN THE PHU YEN PROVINCE (INFLATED VOTER TURNOUT FIGURES, ALLOWING PERSONS NOT ON VOTER LIST TO VOTE, MULTIPLE VOTING BY MILITARY MEN, ETC.)



6. NGUYEN DINH QUAT SUBMITTED COMPLAINT AGINST BOTH THIEU-KY AND DZU-CHIEU SLATES. QUAT CHARGED THAT DZU VILCTATED BOTH ELECTORAL LAW AND CONSTITUTION BY "PROPAGANIDIZING FOR COMMUNISTS, AND OPENLY RECOGNIZING NLF AS DISGRUNTEDL ELEMENTS AND AN IMPORTANT FORCE IN THE SOUTH." NOT ONLY DID DZU'S REMARKS "BETRAY THE NOBLE SACRIFICES OF ALL VIETNAMESE COMBATANTS," BUT THEY ALSO ROBBED QUAT OF VOTES SINCE "MAJORITY OF COMPATRIOTS WHO HAD FAITH IN US WERE OBLIGED BY VC TO VOTE FOR DZU."

QUAT ALSO DENOUNCED DZU FOR HAVING INSULTED GVN AND FOR FALSELY ACCUSING QUAT OF "RUNNING ALONG BEHIND" MILITAY SLATE.

7. QUATS CHARGES AGAINST THIEU-KY INCLUDED KY'S ALLEGED THREAT TO OVERTHROW ELECTED GOVERNMENT, ABUSE OF OFFICIAL POSITIONS, PREVENTLUNG REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER CANIDATES TO OBSERVE POLLING PLACES, WITHHOLDING VOTERS CARDS, POSSIBLE DISCREPANCY IN VOTE COUNTING, ETC.

8. TRIEU VAN TUC, MRS DEPUTY AND HUONG SUPPORTER, REQUESTED THAT SSSEMBLY EXAMINE CASE OF A MILITARY VOTER IN MY THO WHO WAS FOUND TO BE IN POSSSESSION OF THREE VOTING CARDS. SOLDIER WAS ALLEGEDLY IN PROCESS OF VOTING FOR SECOND TIME WHEN IRREGULARITY WAS DISCOVERED.



9. THREE VOTERS COMPLAINED THAT THEY WERE NOT ISSUED VOTER CARDS. FOURTH VOTER, WHOSE EXPERIENCE WAS SUMMARIZED REF B,



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CHARGED THAAT POLLING STATION OFFICIALS REFUSED TO OPEN BALLOT BOXES BEFORE VOTING BEGAN TO SHOW THAT THEY WERE EMPTY, AND NOTED THAT "FRANKLY SPEAKING, I WAS THUNDER-STRUCK" TO OBSERVE THAT THERE WAS CONSPICUOUS SHORTAGE OF THIEU-KY BALLOTS. "WHAT COULD BE REASON FOR THAT STRANGE LOCK?"

10. CEC HAS UNTIL SPTEMBER 25 TO EXAMINE COMPLAINTS AND SUBMIT ITS FINDNGS TO NATIONAL ESSEMBLY. BUNKER



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